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1965

E. HEINE AS A MEMBER OF THE FOREST BROTHERHOOD

Introduction

The following outline deals exclusively with the period between Heine's escape from POW camp in Tallinn 1946 and recapture during the Song Festival in 1950 while in Estonia. The purpose of this outline is to assist in further questioning, to establish events under oath and to discover discrepancies. If successful, either or both of the two objectives will be met:

1. Heine's story as told in Viirlaid's books, in film and at public meetings is in substance not true.
2. There is a serious discrepancy with answers given to deposition taken in Washington.

There is a basic assumption that has to be satisfied in order to meet the objectives:

It will be permissible to explore Heine's background by questioning about this period. A suggestion: If objections are raised, direct questions to Heine along the line: "Are there any reasons why you decline to discuss your background", etc., might be helpful. Considering his psychological attitude and behaviour patterns, the possibility of a newspaper headline "Heine Declines to Discuss His Past", etc., there is reason to believe that he may consent.

Another assumption is that prior to being deposed, Heine will have studied and memorized his answers to the deposition taken in Washington in 1965. If this is true, then the line of questioning proposed herein may tend to complicate his effort to repeat a previous story. Events in this outline were also related by him to A. Viirlaid and some also appeared in the film and at public lectures. The significance lies in the fact that many of these events are markedly different or missing in the deposition.

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Sources

All events listed are based on the three books by A. Viirlaid in Estonian language. For cross reference, some of the more important statements (or absence of them) in the deposition are also shown. For reference the sources are tabulated as follows:

- A - "Vaim ja Ahelad" ("Spirit and the Chains"). This book is also translated into English under the title "Rain for the River"
- B - "Kustuvad Tuled" (The Fading Lights)
- C - "Sadu Jokke" ("Rain for the River") - not to be confused with source A
- D - Deposition taken in Washington, Feb. - March, 1965

The events are listed in sequence starting with the escape in 1946 and terminating with recapture in 1950. Sources are shown in the margin by letter designation followed by page number where the item can be found or the description of an event begins.

Key References

An interview by A. Viirlaid in "Meie Elu" ("Our Life"), 12 May, 1966.

(Copy attached)

Source D: pg. 73-75 - movie about Heine and his men is 100% true.

Pg. 77-78 - first book about 95% of actual happenings between 1940-46, 50, 51.

Pg. 81-82 - everything in book is true except some hard facts of life like homosexuality, etc.

Pg. 494 - until Aug. 1947 only incidents were: dairy raid, killing District of Viljandi officer and killing 4 drivers and burning 4 trucks.

Pg. 485 - in August, 1947, went voluntarily to Siberia. Returned at the end of September (pg 580).

Pg. 580 - no activities from September, 1947 until February, 1948 (The Viljandi affair).

Pg. 616 - killed security officer Piibeleht.

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Pg. 617 - June or July, 1948 - battle at their bunker.

Pg. 633-635 - Sept. 1948 until March 1949 - no raids.

Pg. 639-641 - During deportation March, 1949, attacked Russian trucks twice. Last act for year.

Pg. 643 - June - Christmas, 1949 - hid in bunker.

SOURCE

The Story

A 248 Eerik steals his fellow prisoner's MAKS' civilian clothes.

D 469 Takes the clothes of HEINO HELMET.

COMMENT: MAKS appears later in books as the driver who makes arrangements for LEEL and is the cause for the Viljandi passport affair.

A 250 Escapes with friend, ARMO TULLES, summer 1946.

B 71 ARMO was with EERIK in Bad Tolz. His parents deported in 1941.

D 462 Will not give the name of man he escaped with. He is now alive in Estonia.

B 74 The two escapees join the partisan group consisting of: (cover names) RASAJALG, PLONN, TINANTNA, PUSA, ONO, POISS, HABE, KRIIMSILM, MASSAJA and the group leader, Capt. SARAK, who uses his right name (B 75). Ten men previously, plus two newcomers.

A 261 Second summer in freedom (1948). Gives the same names as above.

D 479 About eight guerillas in group they joined. Leader, Capt. ENDEL PARTS, who was shot down on a guerilla raid while EERIK was there. About three others have survived.

D 480- Gives name ULO PUUSAAG, now dead. Knows only four names in group (three alive, 484 and PUUSAAG, presumably.

B 86 PUSA, RASAJALG, TINANTNA capture a vehicle with three Russian officers and release them tied on the backs of pigs on the market place of Viljandi.

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D No mention of this event.

B 87 Summer-Fall 1946 the group stops a car carrying driver, a militia-man and two civilians. Driver shot. Capt. SARAK kills the civilians, lets the militia officer go.

D 492 EERIK, in 1946, kills a district of Viljandi officer. COMMENT: Are these incidents the same?

A 262 Usual activities for the group: releasing prisoners from local jails and wounded from city hospitals. Attacks on prison cars at the end of trains.

D No mention of these activities.

A 262 Raid to the dairy at Vageva to capture two tons of butter. He talks about second summer in freedom (1948). It is not quite clear what period is meant.

D 487-490 Dairy raid in July, 1946. First job.

COMMENT: The stories are essentially similar.

B 101 Fall 1946 - In order to secure winter supplies, plan to attack a MVD farm (former home of EERIK'S friend ARMO). Joined by 30 ^{men in} band, lead by BLACK CAPTAIN, a thin faced, dark complexioned type with a Russian accent.

The attack is preceded by visit to MVD farm by BLACK CAPTAIN, EERIK and ARMO, all dressed up as Russian officers, driving a Russian truck with a Soviet deserter as the driver. The garrison of the farm is incapacitated with drugged wine and the partisans attack successfully.

D There is no mention of this operation.

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A 274 Winter 1946-47 - obtains in Tartu three passports and military discharge papers for 2000 rubles and 20 liters liquor. Heine becomes ballet master PRIIT POLDMAA, ARMO gets a militia passport.

A 291 PRIIT POLDMAA had trouble with authorities, his passport disappeared from his coat pocket in wardrobe.

D 504-508 Winter 1946-47 obtains two passports for liquor and money. Uses the passport of PRIIT POLTSAMAA. Pays 1000 rubles, 20 liters liquor. Met POLTSAMAA and had a party afterwards.

COMMENT: Was the passport stolen from the ballet master? Did he get two or three passports for how much money?

B 128 KAARIN, the widow of an army major joins the group (late 1946 probably).

D 631 Had 10 men and a girl in band. She was the former wife of a police official.

B 140 Spring 1947 - a woodcutter becomes lost in woods. Is captured by the band. Capt. SARAK orders ARMO to kill him.

A 278 Essentially same as above.

D No mention of this incident.

B 143
A 282 ARJO and HAZE leave the group.

B 145 KAARIN leaves the group and returns to Viljandi in Spring of 1947.

D 631 She obtained a passport and went to live with ordinary people in Winter 1947.

B 145 ONU leaves the band to return to his farm. KRILMSILM leaves the band and goes to Tallinn.

B 155 MASSAJA leaves the band to give himself up. EERIK accompanies him to Tallinn.

COMMENT: What happened to MASSAJA, was he arrested, interrogated?

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- B 213 Spring 1947 - an old man, HANNU, joins the band.
- B 218 KRIIMSILM is back with SARAK'S band.
- B 223- ARMO now has his own group of about a dozen men. Also has assault guns, Tiger
224 tank and a Messerschmidt plane.
- A 288 Sometime in 1947 SARAK kills in EERIK'S presence suspected traitors in a farm
house: a woman and her husband.
- D No mention of this incident.
- *****
- B 225 Summer 1947 - KAARIN returns to band, she was followed in Viljandi.
- D No mention of her return.
- *****
- B 226 A new band arrives in area led jointly by a woman, LEEL, and a man, KOLJAT.
About 20 men in group - everyone has a biblical cover name.
- *****
- B 238 Summer 1947 - LEEL'S band, including EERIK, attack a MVD food depot. Three
killed, one wounded among partisans. In fight, a MVD lieutenant is thrown into
fire by partisans. Russian dead and wounded are burned with trucks. In retreat,
LEEL kills the wounded partisan.
- D No mention of LEEL, her band or such an operation.
- COMMENT: In the movie there is a sequence where a wounded partisan is killed
by his comrades.
- *****
- B 243 The big train robbery - EERIK and ARMO board a train carrying money shipment, in
Petseri dressed as MVD officers. Near Veriora station LEEL'S band attacks, over
a million rubles taken. During battle EERIK has urge to kill ARMO. Drive back
in a Soviet truck. Wave to Russians on road.
- D No mention of this affair.

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COMMENT: This episode appears in the movie. Aside from everything else, it is a considerable distance from Verioja to Jarvamaa. Bridges on Emajogi have to be crossed, etc. No interdiction by Soviets?

B 250 LEEL and ARMO living together, their bands are disintegrating.

B 252 Fall and Winter, 1947 - ARMO proposes to leave Estonia in an airplane.

B 255 January, 1948 - LEEL takes EERIK to her grandmother. LEEL is pregnant by ARMO.

C 7 Spring 1948 - SARAK'S band membership same as in 1946 (B 74) except for MASSAJA (absent) and KAARIN (present).

C 13 EERIK contacts his prison camp mate in Tallinn named MAKS who brings him to the former camp doctor, BORIS JEBALEV, who recommends his cousin, also Dr. JEBALEV, to handle LEEL'S childbirth.

COMMENT: It is surprising that MAKS was so friendly with EERIK who stole his clothes in Kopli POW camp.

C 23 MAKS drives JEBALEV and EERIK into woods. Documents checked twice on the road. Drive without lights.

C 39 A son is born to LEEL.

C 43 Three masked partisans kill JEBALEV.

C 45 Summer 1948 - PLONN plans to get married. EERIK arranges for a midnight church ceremony.

C 54 Soviets attack the wedding party. The bride is killed, minister arrested, ONU arrested, TINANINA arrested, POISS wounded and captured. RASAJALC killed.

C 65 TINANINA escapes and returns.

D No mention of this battle.

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- C 73 MVD attacks the partisan area led by POISS who is tied to a rope. Big battle. MVD annihilated. Ten truckloads of MVD killed. Other bands have five killed. From SARAK'S band, KAARIN killed, SARAK wounded, POISS killed by ARMO.
- A 282 End of June when EERIK had been in forest two years (1948) attack by MVD. POISS killed by ARMO. ONU had been killed by MVD. Move to a new bunker near Endla Lake.
- D No mention of this battle.
- D 486,632 KAARIN alive in Estonia

COMMENT: This battle is also shown in the movie.

- A 282 While looking for a site for the new bunker after the above battle, EERIK assisted by farmer KAAREL, whose daughter had been deported to Siberia in 1941. The beginning of prelude to Siberian trip.
- C 80 Summer 1948 - EERIK plans to go to Siberia.
- C 82 Message comes that EERIK has left.
- D 485 In August, 1947 went voluntarily to Siberia.

COMMENT: This is a most interesting discrepancy which in deposition advances the entire sequence by one year.

- A 341 After return from Siberia EERIK leaves his proteges in Kehra vicinity and goes to Tallinn to obtain passports for them.
- A 342 While EERIK is in Siberia, only a few left from his band. SARAK, ARMO and many others dead. The bunker blown up.
- C 84 As soon as the new bunker was finished, MVD attacked, as if they had been observing and waiting. ARMO killed, SARAK and others killed.
- C 127 EERIK returns and in a farm house finds KRIIMSILM seriously wounded brought there by VAINLIND (a new man) and PUSA. Before dying, KRIIMSILM tells that HAKE was killed first then TINANINA. ARMO and SARAK killed themselves with a knife.